

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1058

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016

Packaged Food Products

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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether companies selling packaged food products have been arbitrarily deciding the quantity and prices of their products in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to frame any policy to make good quality packaged food products available to the consumers at reasonable prices; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : The prices and profit margins are determined through competition in market place and the selling prices are determined by the manufacturing companies. Competition in market place finally determines the sales price of various items depending on demand, availability and quality. The quantity restrictions are however imposed by the Government in respect of certain commodities as under.

Under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 there are 19 commodities including some food products, which are required to be packed in prescribed sizes. These 19 commodities are Baby food, Weaning Food, Biscuits, Bread including brown bread but excluding bun, Un-canned packages of butter and margarine, Cereals and Pulses, Coffee, Tea, Material which may be constituted or reconstituted as beverages, Edible Oils Vanaspati, ghee, butte oil, Milk Powder, Non-soapy detergents (powder), Rice (powdered), flour, atta, rawa, and suji, Salt, Soaps (Laundry Soap, Non-soapy detergent cakes/ bars, Toilet Soap including all kinds of bath soap, cakes), Aerated soft drinks, non-alcoholic beverages, Mineral water and drinking water, Cement in bags, Paint varnish etc. (Paint (other than paste paint or solid paint) varnish, varnish stains, enamels, Paste paint and solid paint, Base paint).

Apart from these 19 commodities all other commodities may be packed in any quantity as decided by the manufacturer/ packer / importer. Also under the said rules value based packages from Rs. 1.00 to Rs. 10.00 are allowed irrespective of the quantity prescribed.

(b) & (c) : No, there is no proposal from the Government to frame any policy to make good quality packaged food products available to the consumers at reasonable prices. The quality of packaged food products is monitored by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India to provide good quality of packaged food products to the consumers. The selling prices are however determined by the manufacturing companies themselves.
